

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2002

Secretary Colin Powell
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520-0001

Dear Secretary Powell,

As you know, we were deeply disappointed when President Bush decided to invoke Kemp-Kasten, thereby defunding the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This decision was of particular concern after the State Department's *own* team recommended releasing the \$34 million to UNFPA. However, we were somewhat relieved to read that you "believe that the full \$34 million appropriated by the Congress should be used for the purpose of family planning and reproductive health care as originally envisaged. [And therefore] propose to apply the full \$34 million to USAID's Child Survival and Health Program Fund." We had assumed there would be a quick effort to transfer the monies to USAID and were particularly disturbed to learn that it took the State Department 38 days to notify its intention to make this transfer of funds.

While USAID does excellent work where it has established programs, it operates in 84 countries around the world compared to the 140 countries around the world where UNFPA works. Many of the nations where there is no USAID presence suffer from political turmoil and poor living conditions. These are the very countries where the basic American ideals of freedom and democracy are being challenged by disenfranchised members of society and the places where, for political and security reasons, USAID does not operate.

On Friday, September 13, 2002, some members of our staff attended a meeting with representatives from the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, including Kelly Ryan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State – Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and A. Louise Oliver, Special Assistant – Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. The Congressional staff in attendance had expected to leave with a better understanding of how your vision of reaching those countries who clearly have unmet population planning needs will be achieved. Unfortunately, they were informed that AID will not be expanding to reach any new countries currently served by UNFPA (except for the new program in Afghanistan), and that AID does not have a strategy to develop the infrastructure necessary to enter new countries. We feel strongly that our original mutually shared goal may be derailed by this new plan which does not address the growing need for family planning programs around the world.

Therefore, we concluded from the meeting that the basic infrastructure is not in place to continue the maternal and child health programs that are so necessary to thousands of women in developing countries. As Representative James Greenwood (R-PA) stated while on a recent visit to Kenya: "Infrastructure is not there; it cannot be replaced like that ... [t]his is a system that is going to be very difficult to reconstruct."

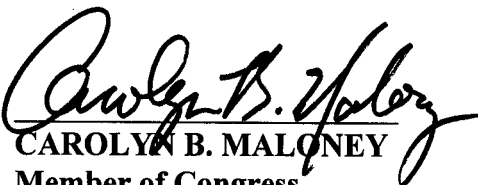
Unfortunately, our staff reported that they left the meeting with more questions than answers and it is for this reason that we write:

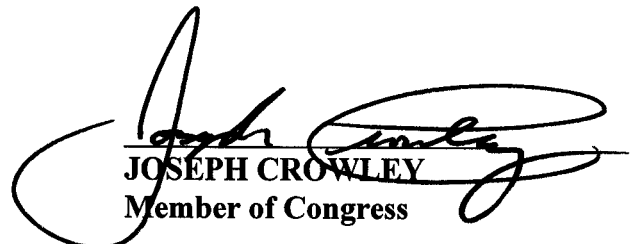
- We understand from the meeting that you are currently proposing allocating the \$34 million to eight countries including: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Haiti. According to Ms. Ryan, a formula was used to derive which countries might be eligible based on unmet needs. Unfortunately, she was unable to explain how this formula was derived and then used. As such, we request a copy of the formula and an explanation as to how it was used. Additionally, we request a listing of all of countries that were considered for funding.
- It was clear from the meeting that it would take at least one year and up to two years to get the \$34 million into the field. As you know, Congress appropriated the \$34 million for FY02, assuming that it would be sent immediately. In light of the drastic time delay, please provide a timeline of when we can expect the first installment of the \$34 million will be sent to and spent in the field.
- Ms. Ryan indicated that the goal of the Bureau of Population is to work with UNFPA to develop programs so that they can fund them in the next cycle. We appreciate that sentiment. However, we do not understand, given the White House's interpretation of Kemp-Kasten, how this can be accomplished. Could you please elaborate and explain how the State Department will work with UNFPA?
- How is USAID filling the gap left by the defunding of UNFPA if it is only going into one new country?
- Are there any plans to work with NGOs not already partnering with USAID?
- Are there any plans to stop working with NGOs that are currently working with UNFPA?
- Have steps been taken to issue regulations on how this money must be spent?
- What is the overall plan to reach those in need and when will these people be getting vital services?

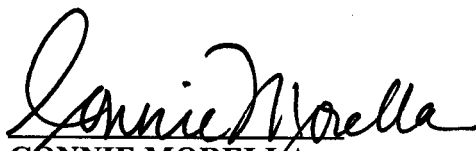
As the lives of women and children depend on this money and on a swift, responsible application of these funds, we respectfully request a written explanation of how new programs are being implemented in some of the neediest communities in the world. We are certain that you have already reviewed these types of questions in your strategy meetings and that a expeditious response will follow.


We thank you for your attention to this matter.


Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



CONNIE MORELLA
Member of Congress


HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress


JAMES GREENWOOD
Member of Congress

cc: Senator Tom Daschle
Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Joseph Biden


TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress


JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress